



April 26, 2019

Representative John Lincoln, Co-Chair
Representative Garan Tarr, Co-Chair
House Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 102
Juneau AK, 99801

Senator Chris Birch
Senate Resources Committee
State Capitol Room 125
Juneau AK, 99801

RE: Doyon Support of HB 138 National Resource Water Designation
Doyon Support of SB 51 National Resource Water Nomination/Designation

Dear Representative Lincoln, Representative Tarr, and Senator Birch,

This letter is a written statement of support for HB 138 and SB 51 regarding National Resource Water Designations and Nominations.

Doyon, Limited is the state chartered Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska. Doyon has more than 20,000 shareholders. Our mission is to continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social wellbeing of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

The Tier 3 designation arises out of federal antidegradation rules, promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Clean Water Act, to ensure that the nation's waters are not degraded. The most stringent of these rules is called "Tier 3" – which is reserved for Outstanding Natural Resource Waters (ONWR). Any waterbody that is designated an ONRW cannot, under the Tier 3 rules, be degraded beyond its baseline conditions; prohibiting new activities and expansion of existing activities that impact water quality in any way- even if the discharges meet Alaska's water quality standards.

Tier 3 designations would effectively amend federal and state land-use plans on lands adjacent to a Tier 3 designated water body without any role in this regulation process by federal land management agencies, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game or affected communities, and without input by Doyon, Limited. Because there are over three million waterbodies in Alaska, almost all of which are pristine, Tier 3 designation could result in massive land set asides throughout the State, prohibiting development of projects even if they meet Alaska's water quality standards.

Doyon is the largest private landowner in Alaska, with a land entitlement under ANCSA of more than 12.5 million acres. Doyon has been monitoring the discussion regarding Tier 3 nominations and supports legislation by which only the Legislature is authorized to make a Tier 3/Wilderness Water designation, especially given the significant restrictions that would be placed on waterbodies designated as Tier 3 water bodies. As such, Doyon supports SB 51 and HB 138.

Please contact Sarah Obed, VP External Affairs, with any questions regarding Doyon's support of these bills at obeds@doyon.com or by calling (907)459-2092.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Schutt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Aaron Schutt
President and CEO
Doyon, Limited

CC: Representative Kopp
Senator John Coghill
Senator Cathy Giessel
Senator Lora Reinbold
Senator Click Bishop
Senator Scott Kawasaki
Senator Jesse Kiehl
Representative Grier Hopkins
Representative Sarah Hannan
Representative Ivy Spohnholz
Representative Chris Tuck
Representative Dave Talerico
Representative George Rauscher
Representative Sara Rasmussen